

Message Text

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R 272040Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9989

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH AMBASSADOR TAKES SOUNDINGS RE CYPRUS

1. SUMMARY. TURKISH AMBASSADOR, OBVIOUSLY ON INSTRUCTIONS, URGENTLY SEEKS MY VIEWS ON CYPRUS PROBLEM AND RECEIVES SOME EXHORTATORY ADVICE. END SUMMARY.

2. GREATLY TO MY SURPRISE, TURKISH AMBASSADOR SAKIP BAYAZ TELEPHONED EMBASSY MORNING AUGUST 27 SEEKING MOST URGENT APPOINTMENT. TURNED OUT HE HAD LIST OF POINTS TO RAISE WITH ME REGARDING CYPRUS (POSSIBLY, I WOULD GUESS, AS PART OF CIRCULAR INQUIRY TO ALL TURKISH AMBASSADORS FOR REACTIONS TO TURKISH POSITION).

3. AFTER EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY FOR DEATH OF RODGER DAVIES, AMBASSADOR ASKED ME FOR MY GENERAL VIEWS ON THE SITUATION. I TOLD HIM I WAS OUT OF TOUCH, HAD NOT BEEN IN ISLAND FOR ALMOST ONE AND ONE-HALF YEARS, AND HAD READ ONLY PRESS REPORTS REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, IN RESPONSE TO HIS STATEMENTS RE GREEK WRONGS AND TURKISH RIGHTS -- SO FAMILIAR IN ANY TURKISH DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM -- I GAVE HIM AS MY
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PERSONAL OPINION THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WITH REGARD

TO SPECIFIC POINTS HE RAISED:

A. I THOUGHT BOTH SIDES HAD SUFFERED AND WOULD SUFFER FROM ACTIONS ALREADY COMMITTED; OVERTHROW OF MAKARIOS REGIME HAD BEEN A GREAT BLUNDER OF MODERN HISTORY, WHILE TURKISH TACTICS AT GENEVA AND SUBSEQUENT AUGMENTED MILITARY CAMPAIGN HAD COST TURKEY MANY FRIENDS.

B. THESE EVENTS, HOWEVER, WERE NOW BEHIND US, AS WERE THE WRONGS INFLICTED BY EACH CYPRUS COMMUNITY UPON THE OTHER THROUGHOUT RECENT HISTORY. THE NEED NOW WAS FOR PASSIONS TO COOL AND STATESMANSHIP TO BE EXERCISED. AS IN EFFECT THE VICTORS IN A WAR, I THOUGHT IT WAS PARTICULARLY INCUMBENT UPON THE TURKS TO EXERCISE GENEROUSITY IN MOVING TOWARD A NEW SETTLEMENT.

C. IT SEEMED APPARENT TO ME THAT THE OLD ORDER IN CYPRUS COULD NOT BE RESTORED, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IT REMAINED TRUE THAT CYPRUS COULD NOT BE EITHER GREEK OR TURKISH AND THEREFORE MUST REMAIN AN INDEPENDENT STATE, IN WHICH THE TWO COMMUNITIES WOULD EACH ENJOY AN AGREED LEVEL OF AUTONOMY.

D. TURKISH MAGNANIMITY COULD BE EXERCISED IN A NEW TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT: IN MY OPINION, FOR EXAMPLE, IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR TURKS TO SURROUND NICOSIA OR TO MAKE FAMAGUSTA TOWN AND HARBOR COMPLETELY TURKISH.

E. THE IMPORTANT THING NOW WAS FOR THE GUARANTOR POWERS AND THE CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES TO MOVE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TOWARD NEW NEGOTIATIONS. THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A LARGER CONFERENCE WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND WAS LIKELY FURTHER TO DISTURB THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

F. THIS COULD BE A TURNING POINT IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS IF, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ECEVIT AND CARAMANLIS, THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE TO START NEGOTIATING NEW AND CONFIDENTIAL

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MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL THEIR MINORITY, ISLAND, MARITIME AND OTHER PROBLEMS.

4. AMBASSADOR WENT AWAY REASONABLY PLEASED. I DOUBT WE WILL HAVE ANY FALLOUT FROM THIS LESS THAN HISTORIC INTERVIEW.

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